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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraphs at page 2, lines 1-6, in the following manner:

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION SUMMARY

~~It is a general object of the present invention to provide an image processing method, printer driver, image processing apparatus, image forming apparatus and image forming system, in which the problems described above are suppressed.~~

~~A more specific object of the present invention is to provide In an aspect of this disclosure, there are provided~~ an image processing method, printer driver, image processing apparatus, image forming apparatus and image forming system, which can improve the picture quality by reducing the disorder of the inclined line-group keytone caused by the two-way impact error.

~~Still another object of the present invention is to provide In another aspect of this disclosure, there is provided~~ an image processing method for processing image data to be output to an image forming apparatus that is capable of making a two-way recording to form an image on a recording medium by recording in a forward path and a return path of a scan by an ink-jet recording head, comprising a halftone process that is based on an inclined line-group keytone and maintains keytone continuity, wherein the halftone process includes a dither process in which the inclined line-group keytone appears at a stage where the recording in the forward path is made. According to the above-mentioned image processing method ~~of the present invention~~, it is possible to improve the picture quality by reducing the disorder of the inclined line-group keytone caused by the two-way impact error.

~~A further object of the present invention is to provide In another aspect of this disclosure, there is provided~~ a printer driver for causing a computer to execute a halftone process according to the above image processing method, to output the image data to the image forming apparatus. According to the above-mentioned printer driver ~~of the present invention~~, it is possible to improve the picture quality by reducing the disorder of the inclined line-group keytone caused by the two-way impact error.

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Another object of the present invention is to provide In another aspect of this disclosure, there is provided an image processing apparatus provided with the above printer driver, to carry out a halftone process with respect to the data to be output to the image forming apparatus. According to the above-mentioned image processing apparatus of the present invention, it is possible to improve the picture quality by reducing the disorder of the inclined line-group keytone caused by the two-way impact error.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide In another aspect of this disclosure, there is provided an image forming apparatus capable of making a two-way recording to form an image on a recording medium by recording in a forward path and a return path of a scan by an ink-jet recording head, comprising a halftone process part configured to carry out a halftone process that is based on an inclined line-group keytone and maintains keytone continuity, wherein the halftone process part includes a dither process part configured to carry out a dither process in which the inclined line-group keytone appears at a stage where the recording in the forward path is made. According to the above-mentioned image forming apparatus of the present invention, it is possible to improve the picture quality by reducing the disorder of the inclined line-group keytone caused by the two-way impact error.

A further object of the present invention is to provide In another aspect of this disclosure, there is provided an image forming system comprising the above image processing apparatus and the above image forming apparatus. According to the above-mentioned image forming system of the present invention, it is possible to improve the picture quality by reducing the disorder of the inclined line-group keytone caused by the two-way impact error.

Other objects and further aspects and features of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.